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January 2, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit 1641

Box Sequence Listing

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/889,520; § 371 Date: December 10, 2001
For: **Assay with Reduced Background**
Inventors: Raven *et al.*
Our Ref: 1581.0810000/RWE

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Copy of Notice to Comply with Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures;
2. Amendment and Submission of Sequence Listing Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.825(a);
3. Paper copy of the Sequence Listing (one sheet) to be appropriately placed in the captioned application;
4. The Sequence Listing in computer readable form (3½" diskette in ASCII); and
5. Return postcard.

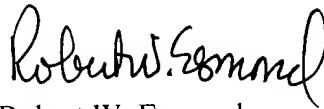
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
January 2, 2003
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
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